

ADAPATIVE SNOOP UTILITY

ABSTRACT

A system and method for a data link user (e.g., snoop utility) to adapt to a protocol
5 processed by a data link provider (e.g., device driver). In a system in which a data
link user connects with a data link provider through DLPI (Data Link Provider
Interface), the provider is capable of passing to the user a detailed description of a
communication protocol handled by the provider. The provider may be requested
10 to send the data if a protocol or media type supported by the provider is of an
unknown or "other" type. The provider may describe the protocol using XML or
a detailed set of data portraying the protocol or communication structure.
Alternatively, the data link provider may send the data link user a Java applet or
other executable module, or enable the user to invoke a function embedded within
the provider.